IN THE SPECIFICATION

Beginning on page 3, line 19:

Referring to Fig. 1, there is illustrated a portion of a communication switching system 10 with which the present invention may be used. The system includes a block 12 identified as a remote controller which monitors and directs data flow into a distribution network. Data entering block 12 at line 14 is directed into a data distribution block 16 via line 15 which forwards the data into multiple selected paths, two of which are shown at 18 and 20 coupling the data into a pair of redundant switching fabrics 22 and 24. The switching fabrics couple data signals to and from a set of line cards 26. In the communication system, the line cards are arranged so that each card directs calls to a specific communication line. The switching fabric is essentially a back plane connecting the line cards to the communication lines. In existing systems, the remote controller monitors operation of the switching fabric and determines whether there is any failure in the fabric. In the event of a failure, the controller 12 provides a DC signal via line 27 to instruct the line cards to switch their respective inputs and outputs to the back-up fabric. Both the switching fabrics 22 and 24 are arranged to couple output data through a data select block 28. The block 28 functions to pass data from either fabric to an output bus 30.